TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

February 16, 1999 LB 194

some tax money and send this other...other notice. We've had these battles before in here and the Press Association seems to think that, we're doing it this way now; by golly, we get good money for this here publication; you have to continue to pay us. And that's what it all really boils down to. If you think that the newspapers need this here revenue then you should vote for the amendment. If you think the taxpayers deserve a break then vote it down, because the taxpayers are actually paying for that there newspaper printing of the county. So it's...this is a fight that we have every few years in here, whether we're going to cut back on some of these here publications that we now currently do, and the Revenue Committee amendments basically said you can do it either way, whichever way that your county The county board can make that decision. wants you to do it. But I think they should have that...that they can go either way rather than say, no, by God, you're going to publish it and you're going to pay this here publisher. Very few people read that there list unless they just want to see if their neighbor has paid theirs, just more of a gossip column than it is anything. If you want to print gossip, you should read Ann Landers instead of putting this here publish of these here It really doesn't mean a lot to publish that in the newspaper because the newspaper does not pay that, that tax. It's the taxpayer that pays it. So think about what you're doing here. This doesn't do a lot of things that people have mentioned this morning. It's strictly a fight between the newspapers and the taxpayers, and I think the taxpayer should win every time. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I rise to oppose the Byars amendment. I, I guess following Senator Wickersham, in his remarks, I'm hearing arguments from a lot of people that I agree with, but I'm coming to exactly the opposite conclusion about how to...what to do with this amendment. Senator Schimek made the point that if we want to be blown along by this new wind maybe we should not only require publication in a particular county but we ought to tell them which publication. I think that's exactly the wrong direction to go. I would remind you that the bill, as it is, without the amendment, would allow the county to make a choice.